

Fall 11-21-1991

## Leland Birthday Celebration 'The Mickey Leland Center is Keeping The Leland Legacy Alive!' Program 11/21/1991

The Mickey Leland Papers & Collection Addendum. (Texas Southern University, 2016)

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## LELAND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER  
IS KEEPING  
THE LELAND LEGACY ALIVE!

**TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY**

*Thursday, November 21, 1991*

*Sterling Student Center*

**3100 Cleburne  
Houston, Texas 77004**



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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### THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER

gratefully acknowledges the support of the following corporations and companies:

- American Photo Copy and Printing Company
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- Transamerica Criterion Corporation

The Leland Center appreciates the encouragement it received from *Mrs. Alison Leland, Mrs. Alice Rains, and Senator Rodney Ellis*. Their suggestions and support greatly facilitated the planning of this event.

We are especially grateful to *President William H. Harris*, his administrative team members, and Leland Center Associates from the various academic departments, who have worked collectively to make the University's "Bold New Vision" a reality through the support of initiatives like the Leland Center. The goals and activities of the Center are consistent with the outreach and research components of the University's Strategic Plan.

**MICKEY**

**LELAND**

**BIRTHDAY**

**CELEBRATION**



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OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
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President's Message:

During my career in higher education, few projects have afforded me the gratification that the development of the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace has brought. Immediately after his death I knew that Texas Southern University -- the institution that nourished Mickey Leland in his formative years, the institution he dearly loved and never forgot -- needed a great and living memorial to its loving "son," the warm and vital human being who was Mickey.

Today, on the anniversary of his birth, I am proud to say that we are well on the way to possessing that significant memorial. The Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace now has three highly successful activities, namely the International Development Studies Program, the International Scholars Program, and the Rodney Ellis Professional Internship Program. We have secured funding to hire an archivist to prepare the late Congressman's papers for use by scholars and researchers. And many other Center activities are in the planning stage.

No one who ever met Mickey could forget him: his humor, his joie de vivre, his commitment, and his tenacity to the causes of children, relief of hunger, peace, and opportunities for the underprivileged. Those of you who are joining the Leland Center and the Leland family in celebrating Mickey's birthday are keeping his memory and his spirit alive. You are ensuring that the Leland Center will always be a place where men and women of good will may gather to discuss issues and to plan a better world for posterity in the shadow of a great man whose humanitarian efforts set the standard.

William H. Harris

AN EQUAL EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITY INSTITUTION



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## A UNION OF VISIONS

By

Bobby Wilson, Vice President for Academic Affairs

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I am pleased to pause during this celebration of the birthday of the late U.S. Congressman Mickey Leland and to reflect on how his humanitarian vision has blended into that of Texas Southern University. The union of the two visions is most apparent in the work of the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace, one of the University's distinctive Centers of Outreach. These units are unique because they provide extended functions to the University by offering learning, resources, and service. Specifically, the Leland Center promotes interdisciplinary discourse and research and new currents of academic thought from a global perspective. We are

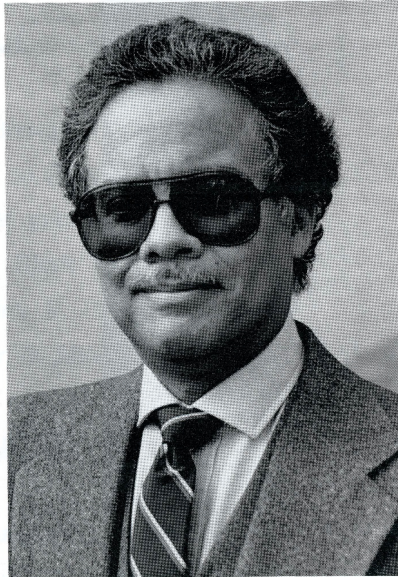
fortunate to have Dr. Isaria Kimambo, our Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, who is an eminent historian and author. He is conducting research in the Leland Center and teaching in the Department of History and Geography. We are proud of the Fulbright Program and other projects that the President described concisely in his message. But the success of these programs reminds us that we must move forward toward the whole, organic, unified goal of total excellence. I, along with the Deans' Council and the staff of the Office of Academic Affairs, extend my **best wishes to the Leland Center** as it continues to keep alive the Leland Legacy.



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## ACCEPTING THE LELAND CHALLENGE

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**Donald Hill**  
**Director**

Our commitment, buffered by the Leland Legacy, was contagious enough to attract our colleagues and volunteers who have assisted us in developing and implementing programs this past year. Without their expertise and diligence, the Center's programs would not have advanced so rapidly. Therefore, this celebration affords us the opportunity to extend our gratitude to the Leland Center Associates and its local Board of Councilors and to the family and friends of Mickey, who accepted with us this extremely worthwhile challenge.

When we accepted the challenge of providing the leadership for the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace, we did not have any prior experiences that would have prepared us to anticipate the unexpected twists and turns of establishing a viable academic unit. But we did have the University's support and our firm commitment to carry the Center's overall goal to improve the quality of man's existence through humanitarian service and research. Studies conducted in the Center will serve as a springboard for the formulation of public policies developed to shrink the number of problems associated with hunger and peace.



**Dottie Atkins**  
**Associate Director**



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## FITTING MICKEY'S LEGACY INTO TSU'S "BOLD NEW VISION"

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**Congressman George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, III**  
**1944-1983**

In these dramatically changing times, many of us focus our attention on myriad issues that seem to have more urgency than humanitarian service, but nothing is more important. At least, that was the late U.S. Congressman Leland's philosophy. His commitment to helping others was so fortified that he did not observe any geographical boundaries when rendering assistance to people deprived of their human rights. Mickey, in his role as a humanitarian servant, became a "world citizen" who transformed his political rhetoric into action. Therefore, he appeared in familiar places, such as the Fifth Ward of Houston, and remote places, such as the famine-stricken area of Gamella, Ethiopia, to deliver food and hope to people whose lives were torn by starvation and internal and external strife. Mickey's hand reached out to mankind, and by doing so he left us a legacy of good will.

One of the essential elements of the mission of Texas Southern University is to foster humanitarianism by reaching out to its immediate community, as well the world, to improve the quality of life. Its Centers of Outreach have agendas to address economical, social, cultural, health conditions plaguing mankind. As an outreach unit, the University's Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace has accepted the baton that Mickey passed on, and through the work of the Center, Mickey's legacy will remain alive.



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## **GEORGE THOMAS "MICKEY" LELAND, III**

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### **FAMILY**

George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, III, was born on November 27, 1944, in Lubbock, Texas, to the parents of Alice and George Thomas Leland, II. On December 1, 1945, the Lelands' second son, William Gaston Leland, was born. In 1983, Mickey married the former Alison Clark Walton. Their first son, Jarrett David, was born in Houston, Texas, on February 6, 1986. Mrs. Leland gave birth to twin boys, Cameron George and Austin Mickey, in Atlanta, Georgia, on January 14, 1990, after the death of her husband in August 1989.

### **EDUCATION**

Mickey Leland attended Atherton Elementary and Phyllis Wheatley High School in Houston, Texas, 4th Ward. He graduated from Wheatley in 1964 as an honor student ranking in the top ten percent of his class. While matriculating at Texas Southern University in the late sixties, Leland was a vocal leader of the local civil rights movement. He graduated from TSU's School of Pharmacy in 1970 with a Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy. He was an instructor of Clinical Pharmacy at his alma mater from 1970-71. During the administration of former President Leonard O. Spearman, Leland received an honorary doctorate degree. He also received Honorary Membership in Kappa Psi Pharmaceutical Fraternity in 1987.

### **POLITICAL CAREER**

In 1972, Leland was elected to the Texas House of Representatives from the 88th District of Houston, Texas. He was re-elected in 1974 and 1976. He served in the Texas Legislature until 1978.

Leland was elected in November 1978 to the United States House of Representatives from the 18th Congressional District located in Houston, Texas. Congressman Leland was re-elected to each succeeding Congress until his death in August 1989. He began his U.S.

## Biography

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House term as Freshman Majority Whip for the 96th Congress in 1979-80 and served as Majority Whip at-Large during the 97th Congress. Congressman Leland was appointed as an At-Large Whip by the House leadership for the 100th Congress.

He chaired the Select Committee on Hunger, which he founded in 1984. The charge given to the Committee was to conduct a continuing study and review of the problems of domestic and international hunger and malnutrition.

In addition to chairing the Select Committee on Hunger, Congressman Leland was a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce where he served on the Subcommittee on Telecommunications and Finance, the Subcommittee on Health and the Environment, and the Subcommittee on Energy and Power.

During 1985-86, Congressman Leland served as Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) for the 99th Congress. The CBC was created in 1971 with only 13 members. By 1987, the membership had grown to 23 members. Congressman Leland, who for years had been active in the Democratic Party, was a member of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) from 1976-85. He served as Chairman of the DNC's Black Caucus in 1985, and in that capacity, he served on the DNC's Executive Committee.

In the 80's, Congressman Leland became more active in human rights and world hunger issues. In 1984, he led an eight-member House committee to Ethiopia on a tour of famine-stricken areas. It was during another such mission in 1989 that Congressman Leland's plane crashed into a mountainside in Ethiopia, killing everyone aboard: the Congressman, his staff chief, Patrice Johnson, and 13 other passengers from a number of U.S. government, humanitarian, and development organizations. They had set out to visit the Sudanese refugee settlements near town of Gambella.

After Congressman Leland's death in August 1989, many honors were bestowed upon him posthumously for his work to ensure humanity's freedom from hunger and conflict. Some of the honors include the following.



## Biography

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1. The establishment in 1989 of the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace, an international think tank at Texas Southern University, Houston, Texas
2. Medal from the United Nations (Food and Agricultural Organization), Washington, D.C.
3. The designation of the Concord Tower to the George Thomas "Mickey" Leland Federal Building, a great landmark recognizing Leland's many accomplishments, located 1919 Smith, Houston, Texas
4. The naming of an orphanage in Ethiopia's capital of Addis Ababa as the Mickey Leland Children's Center, August 4, 1990
5. Dedication of a Crisis Center for abused and neglected children to Leland. The Center is officially called The Mickey Leland Crisis Nursery, located at 2720 Sampson, Houston, Texas. It is sponsored by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Texas Department of Human Services, and the City of Houston Department of Health and Human Services
6. Establishment in 1991 of the Mickey Leland Community Development Fellowships. The program was started with \$250,000 in grant money raised from the 1985 recording of the song *We are the World*. The program is being administered by the Emory Carter Center in Atlanta, Georgia
7. The designation of the new international terminal at Houston Intercontinental Airport to Mickey Leland International Airlines Building

### **LELAND'S DOMESTIC HUNGER and HOMELESS MILESTONES**

1. Introduced the first comprehensive legislation to aid the homeless, including the provision of food, health, educational services and housing. Many of these provisions were included in the National Anti-Drug Act of 1986 and the McKinney Emergency Homeless Assistance Act in 1987. In 1988, Representative Leland's legislation to provide transitional living facilities and services for 16 to 21 year old homeless youth, a group not specifically covered in earlier legislation, also passed.
2. Introduced legislation that was subsequently enacted to establish a National Commission on Infant Mortality and to expand Medicaid to all women, infants, and children in poverty. He recognized that poor nutrition and inadequate health care contribute to infant mortality.

## Biography

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3. Called attention to the nutrition and health needs of hungry people in rural America through hearings covering rural Mississippi (two) and Alabama, Appalachia (two), native Americans, the elderly, migrant workers, and residents of Colonias on the U.S.-Mexican border.
4. Worked to improve the availability of quality food at competitive prices in urban areas through legislation that established a demonstration program providing for the delivery of fresh nutritious foods from farmers' markets to nutritionally at risk women, infants, and children.
5. Worked persistently to make food assistance programs more accessible to those in need and provided impetus for provisions of Emergency Hunger Prevention Act, which achieved the following:
  - a. Aided the family farmer by excluding all property essential to self-employment, including land, equipment, and supplies, in determining eligibility for food stamps benefits
  - b. Authorized the Secretaries of Agriculture and Human Services to aid states in developing simple, coordinated application forms for Food Stamps, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and Medicaid
6. Obtained funding for projects to monitor pediatric undernutrition by the Centers for Disease Control.
7. Added to donations to food banks and soup kitchens by obtaining a change in Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements that simplified the process for contributing businesses.

### **LELAND'S INTERNATIONAL HUNGER and HOMELESS MILESTONES**

1. Co-authored (with Representative Ben Gilman, Representative from New York) legislation to establish House Select Committee on Hunger. Appointed Chairman of Committee when it was established in February 1984.
2. Focused attention on both the emergency and developmental food needs in Africa. In 1984, he led a congressional delegation to the camps of famine victims in Ethiopia. He initiated the effort to obtain \$800 million for assistance to drought-ridden Africa and organized entertainment personalities and religious and private voluntary organizations to generate public support.
3. Proposed in 1987 a joint U.S.-Soviet food initiative to Mozambique. He also met with Pope Paul II to request his intervention in Africa. He obtained funds to support Ethiopian children who became orphans during the famine.



## Biography

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4. Sought to increase through hearings, reports, and appropriations understanding of the developmental needs of Africa, particularly those of the family farmer.
5. Went (August 1989) on his sixth official visit to Africa since 1982 to render assistance to the Ethiopian refugees.
6. Led committee efforts to increase funding for basic needs in developing countries, i.e. primary health care initiatives, including UNICEF's child survival activities and Vitamin A Programs, and expanded the use of U.S. commodities in alleviating hunger, microenterprise credit programs for the poor.
7. Introduced Women in Developing legislation to expand resources available to women through U.S. foreign aid programs in 1987 and again in 1988 with Representative Pat Schroeder, D-CO, and Senator Barbara Mikulski, D-MD. The legislation's funding provisions were adopted in 1988. Congressman Leland worked diligently on this effort because he recognized the important role of women in alleviating hunger and poverty throughout the world.
8. Spoke out on the right of U.S. citizens to provide humanitarian assistance to civilians of any nation, apparent in support of the Veterans Convoy attempting to deliver food and medical supplies in Nicaragua.
9. Introduced legislation establishing an International Health Corps.
10. Established (with the cooperation of Representatives Howard Wolpe, D-Michigan; Bill Emerson, R-MO; and Gary Ackerman, D-NY; and his aide, Jeff Clark) Operation Life Line Sudan in 1988.

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## THE ROOTS OF THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER

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When William H. Harris became the seventh president of Texas Southern University on July 1, 1988, he immediately announced that one of his goals would be "to enhance the academic integrity of the institution," thus affording greater opportunities for the University to meet the myriad needs of its diverse student body and its community constituency. He enthusiastically reiterated this vision and suggested strategies to bring it to life. Enlisting the support of his administrative team, President Harris led a curriculum initiative that has encouraged interdisciplinary research and scholarship through the creation of outreach centers that cross departmental lines. The **Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace** became one such center.

The Leland Center was conceived in August 1989 shortly after the death of George Thomas "Mickey" Leland, a Texas Southern University alumnus and United States Congressman from the 18th District of Texas, who had dedicated his life helping the less fortunate, especially people suffering from starvation. By September 18, 1989, the establishment of the Center at Texas Southern University was announced to the public. On November 21, 1989, Mrs. Alison Walton Leland, wife of the late Congressman, granted ownership of the Leland Papers to TSU. The papers are currently housed in the Robert J. Terry Library on campus.

President Harris constituted a faculty Advisory Committee on the Leland Center and charged it with the responsibility of shaping the Center's goals and programs. The Committee's initial report was presented to President Harris on November 29, 1989. This Committee's concept paper, along with President Harris' vision of the Center served as a springboard for formulating the Center's mission.

## **The Roots of the Center**

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On September 14, 1989, the Chicago Mercantile Exchange took a giant step by contributing \$100,000 to the University to continue Leland's work. At a public press conference held at Texas Southern University on December 4, 1989, President Harris announced that the Houston Endowment, Inc., had pledged a \$1 million endowment to the Mickey Leland Center. By August 30, 1989, the Coca-Cola Foundation made a four-year pledge of \$100,000 to support the Center. On September 1, 1990, President Harris formally institutionalized the Center with the appointment of Professor Donald K. Hill as a Special Assistant to the President on the Mickey Leland Center. Professor Hill is presently serving as the Interim Director. Professor Dottie Malone-Atkins was appointed Associate Director on September 15, 1990. Shortly after these appointments on October 10, 1990, the Government of Japan made a five-year pledge of \$500,000 to the Center in recognition of the late Congressman's humanitarian assistance to peoples of the world.

The mission of the Mickey Leland Center is to attain the status of an **international think tank** that will provide a format for addressing the problems of hunger and conflict through research, programs, and services. Studies conducted in the Center will be used for the development of public policies to assist in the elimination of the root causes of these human ailments. The overall goal of the Center will be achieved by bringing together at various times a corps of educators, students, business leaders, statesmen, and policymakers in a nonpartisan, interdisciplinary atmosphere to discuss topical issues, conduct research, and implement multifaceted outreach programs.

The mission allows the Center to carry out **three major goals**: (a) to serve as a **repository and clearinghouse** for disseminating information through workshops



## **The Roots of the Center**

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and seminars, technical reports, and briefings for congressional staff, key policymakers, television and other media; **(b)** to provide leadership for the development of policy statements on a wide range of matters having to do with hunger, distribution of food, and the problems of conflict associated with the lack of food throughout the world; and **(c)** to sponsor programs that will help to enlighten students and community constituents about the conditions and needs in countries where hunger is pervasive and conflict exacerbated by lack of food and potable water.

Looking to the 21st century, the Leland Center is reaffirming its commitments. It intends to serve as a model for educational accomplishment, resulting from its **research studies**. The Center is pursuing an operational policy that strongly encourages its research associates to involve, when possible, undergraduate and graduate students and community constituents in their investigations as they (the research associates) consistently advance the frontiers of knowledge relative to hunger and peace within their respective fields.

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## MICKY LELAND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION STEERING COMMITTEE

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Standing from left to right are Edna L. Hickman, Corliss A. Rabb, Joseph Jones, Corene Collins, Melvin Plummer, Dottie Atkins, Bridgette Godfrey, René Nweze, and Fennoyee Thomas. Committee members not appearing in the photo are Wolde-Michael Akalou, David Benson, Howard O. Beeth, Neil S. Cline, Henry Lewis, Willie Marshall, Sandra Parham, Ben Randle Charles Smith, James Ward, Cary Wintz, and Carolyn Upton.



# **THE GRADUATE SCHOOL**

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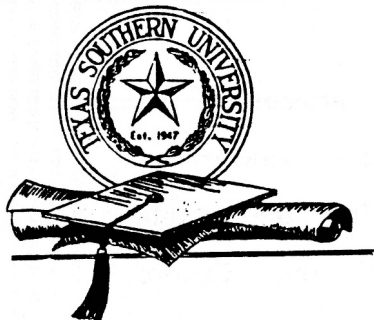
The faculty and staff of the Graduate School extend commendations to the Mickey Leland Center on World Hunger and Peace during its celebration which marks a year's work of addressing critical issues impacting hunger and peace throughout the world.

The Graduate School is committed to promoting the goals of the Center, especially those concerning research. It looks forward to nurturing the viable partnership already established with the Leland Center.

Joseph Jones, Jr., Associate Vice President  
for Academic Affairs



**IN CELEBRATION  
OF  
MICKEY'S BIRTHDAY  
THE  
SCHOOL OF TECHNOLOGY  
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JOINS  
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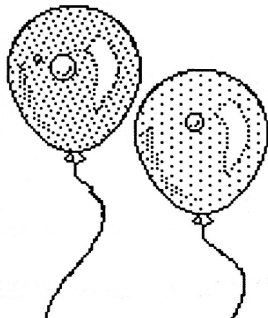
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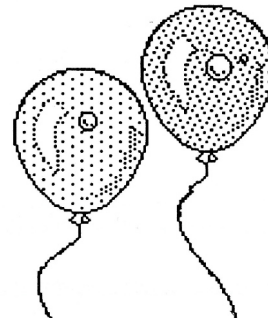
**Ladelle M. Hyman, Dean**

**"HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO  
THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER"**

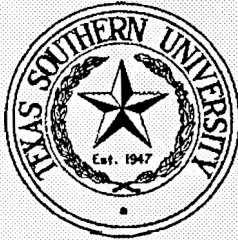
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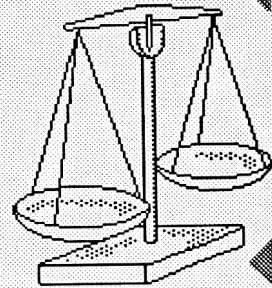


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## **Happy Birthday Mickey**

On your birthday, we remember all of your achievements, especially your efforts to *"feed the hungry."* And most of all, we remember you with respect and admiration for your many acts of kindness.

Oh God of both the living and the dead,  
we praise your holy name for your servant, Mickey,  
who has finished the course of faith.  
We pray, encouraged by his example  
and strengthened by his fellowship, that  
we may be partakers with him  
of the inheritance of the saints in light  
through the merits of Jesus Christ our Lord.

**Amen.**

**Rod Paige, Dean**  
Faculty and Staff College of Education

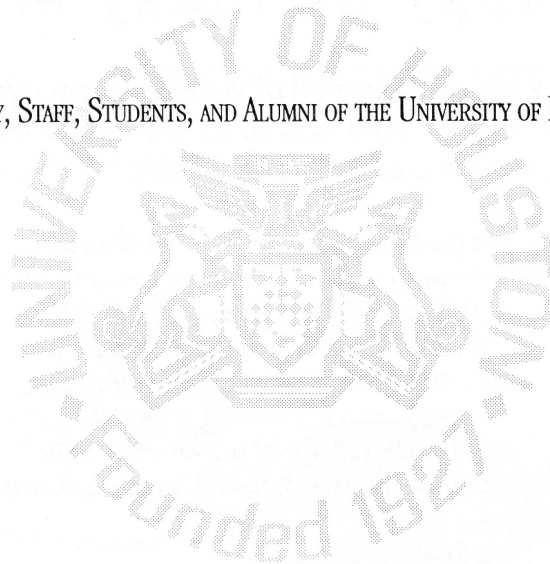


# UNIVERSITY *of* HOUSTON

OUR VERY BEST WISHES TO THE MICKEY LELAND CENTER ON WORLD HUNGER  
AND PEACE AT TEXAS SOUTHERN UNIVERSITY AS IT CHAMPIONS THE  
HUMANITARIAN WORK OF THE LATE U.S. CONGRESSMAN.

AS ONE OF THE MAJOR URBAN RESEARCH UNIVERSITIES IN TEXAS, WE ALSO ARE  
COMMITTED TO FINDING SOLUTIONS TO QUESTIONS ON PUBLIC HEALTH  
AND EDUCATION, HUNGER, HOMELESSNESS, AND PEACE. WE LOOK FORWARD TO  
ASSISTING THE CENTER IN ITS ENDEAVORS.

FACULTY, STAFF, STUDENTS, AND ALUMNI OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON







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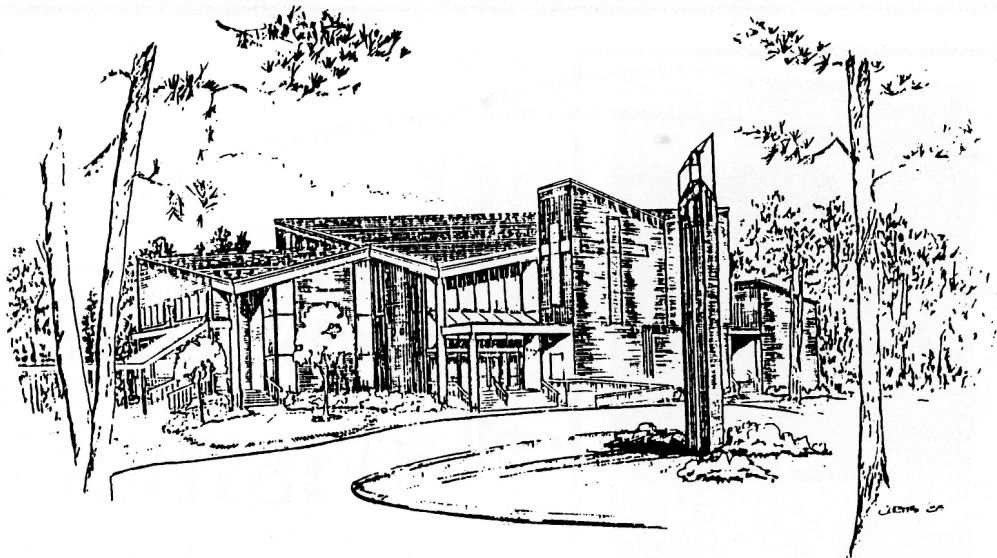
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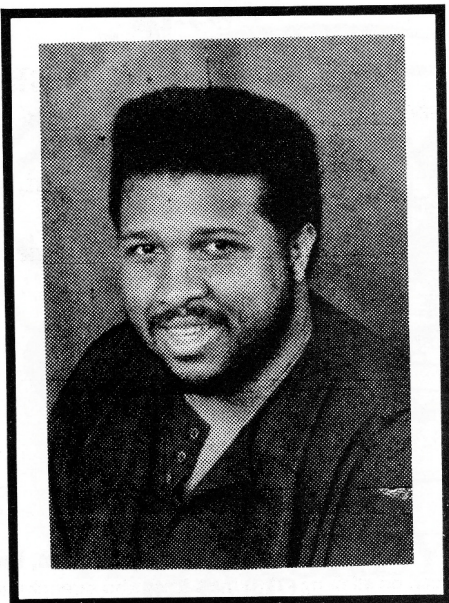
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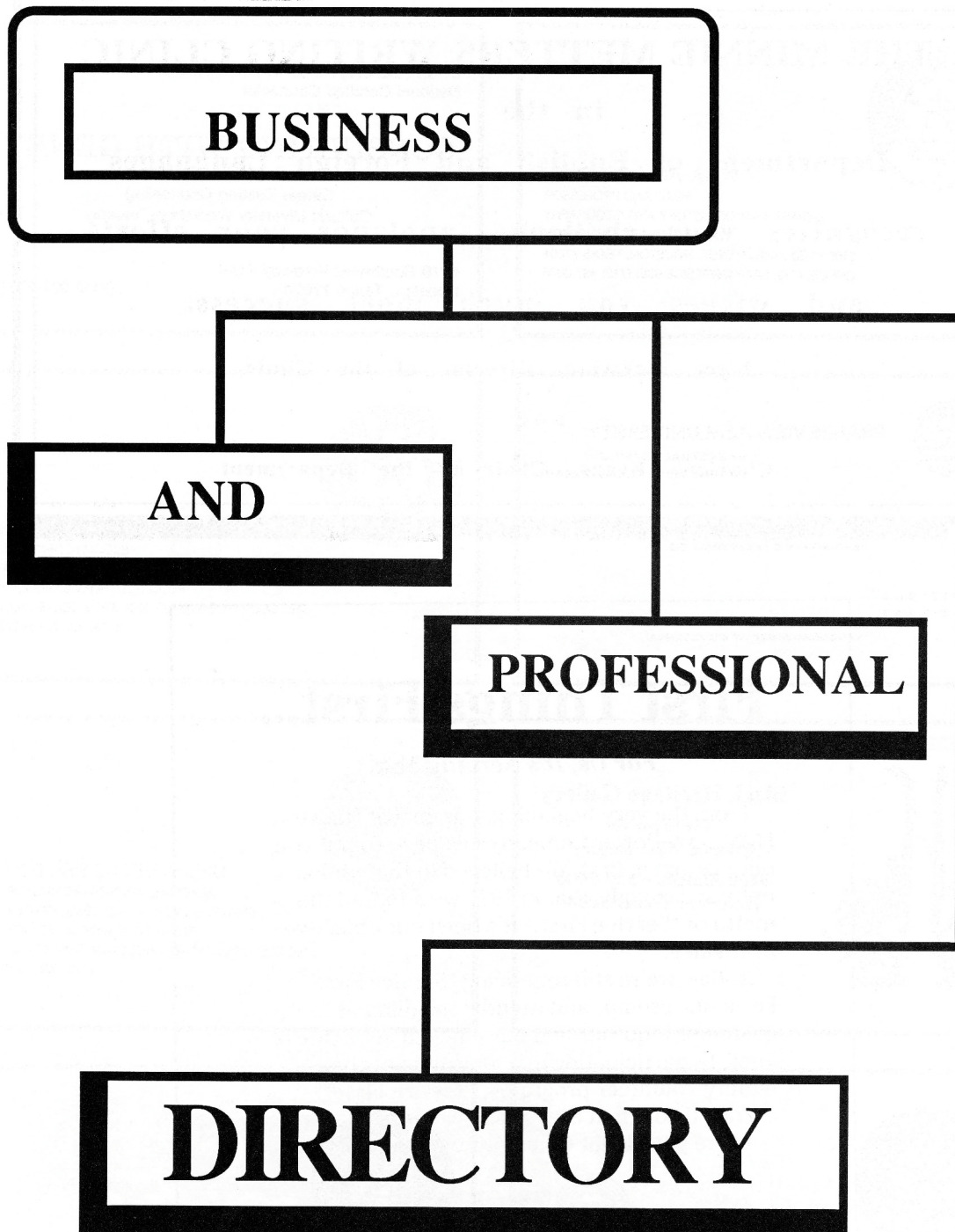
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